



Guide to the Lyman Whiting Papers, 1713-1955

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Summary

Collection Title:

Lyman Whiting papers, 1713-1955

Creator:

Whiting, Lyman, 1817-1906

Abstract:

Lyman Whiting (1817-1906) was a white Massachusetts clergyman and political nominee for Congress. The collection consists of materials documenting Whiting's professional life as a Congregational minister in New England, as well as family papers and correspondence between him and family members including his wife Sophia Chamberlain.

Extent:

1.5 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
310 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01376

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1fh9w>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lyman Whiting Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection centers on the family and professional life of Lyman Whiting, a Congregational minister in New England. Records in the collection outline his genealogy, career, name appointments, offices held, publications. The collection's correspondence largely represents letters received by Whiting from his colleagues, family friends, and close family, including children, mother, and

his spouse Sophia. Other regular correspondents include Nelson Clark. The collection contains some earlier material from the Chamberlain and Whiting families, including Enoch Whiting's 1713 will and freedom papers for "Briton, a Negro Man of Hingham," dated 1777. There is also a narrative that appears to be Lyman Whiting's description of his sensations shortly before his death. The collection's photographs are cased daguerreotype portraits of different Whiting family members.

Biographical/Historical

Lyman Whiting (1817-1906) was a white Massachusetts Congregationalist clergyman and 1854 political nominee for the Know-Nothing and Whig Party.

Whiting was born to Daniel and Phebe Whiting in East Brookfield, Mass. He had several older siblings, including Daniel (1806-1887), Nelson (1804-1856), Lewis (1800-1881), and Abigail (1798-1815). He attended Amherst Academy, the Theological Institute at East Windson Hill, and Andover Theological Seminary, 1840-1842. Lyman married Sophia Esther Chamberlain Whiting in 1843, and the couple had seven children. Many Whiting and Chamberlain family members are represented in the collection's correspondence, including descendents and ancestors.

Sophia died in 1882 and Lyman Whiting later married Josephine Cummings.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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 Lyman Whiting Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase from Mrs. Allen Langston (Raleigh) in 1973.

Processing Information

Processed by Kimberly Sims, May 2011

Encoded by Kimberly Sims, July 2011

Updated by Meghan Lyon, March 2024

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Names and Subjects

- Clergy -- Massachusetts
- Freed persons -- United States
- Congregational churches -- New England
- Sermons, American -- 19th century
- Daguerreotypes (photographs)
- Wills -- Massachusetts
- Preaching -- United States -- History -- 19th century

Collection Inventory

"Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain's wife's dying advice to her children a little before her death",
1788 September 1 (online item available)

Box 1

Digital Object: ["Mr. Ebenezer Chamberlain's wife's dying advice to her children a little before her death", 1788 September 1](#)

Scope and Contents

A two-page manuscript sermon from Esther Chamberlain encouraging her children to repent and obey God. A postscript reads, "Mrs. Chamberlain deliver'd these Lines, which contain her Advice to her Children to be read about the first of September 1788, and Departed this Life the 16th of the same Month in the 42nd year of her Age!"

Correspondence, 1805-1844 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1805-1844](#)

Correspondence, 1845-1849 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1845-1849](#)

Correspondence, 1850-1853 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1850-1853](#)

Correspondence, 1854-1861 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1854-1861](#)

Correspondence, 1862-1870 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1862-1870](#)

Correspondence, 1872-1889 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1872-1889](#)

Correspondence between Whiting descendants, 1954-1955 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence between Whiting descendants, 1954-1955](#)

Legal Papers, 1713-1848 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Legal Papers, 1713-1848](#)

Scope and Contents

Wills, indentures, and legal documents for Whiting ancestors including: Daniel Whiton, Enoch Whiton, and Samuel Whiten.

One document is "a covenant" dated 1777 between "Briton, a Negro man of Hingham in the County of Suffolk" and enslavers in the Whiton family. Samuel

Whiton "in his last will gave the said Briton his freedom at the Decease of his widow Mary Whiton," although it appears that his executors (also his descendents) did not pay Briton the 120 pounds he was promised.

Another document is a deed for land sold to Samuel Whiten by President and Fellows of Harvard College, dated 1752. The land had been seized by Harvard from Jeremiah Chubbuck of Hingham for dues to the College treasurer. Lyman Whiting included a ballad about this situation: "Jeremy Chubb, he had a rubb - Agin the college wall; For once he had a great estate, But then he spent it all."

Financial Papers, 1850-1863 (online item available)

Box 1

Digital Object: [Financial Papers, 1850-1863](#)

Scope and Contents

Receipts from expenses such as groceries, furniture, and a harmonium instrument. Also contains subscription receipts for Congressional Quarterly and receipts following estate settlement payments.

Addresses and Writings, 1830s and 1906 (online item available)

Box 1

Digital Object: [Addresses and Writings, 1830s and 1906](#)

Scope and Contents

Contains essays by Lyman Whiting, many of which appear to be compositions or other writings from his time as a student at Amherst Academy. Topics include Christianity, spiritualism, nature, chivalry, vacations, and memoirs. The 1906 item, a narrative written in faded pencil which appears to describe his body and spiritual sensations, dates to shortly before Lyman Whiting's death.

Genealogy for Whiting and Duran families, approximately 1950s (online item available)

Box 1

Digital Object: [Genealogy for Whiting and Duran families, approximately 1950s](#)

Clippings and ephemera, 1850-1905, undated (online item available)

Box 1

Digital Object: [Clippings and ephemera, 1850-1905, undated](#)

Scope and Contents

Tickets, invitations, circulars about establishing a Hospital Library, and a news clipping about Lyman Whiting summarizing his "interesting career" as a reverend and Know-Nothing party member.

Photographs (cased daguerreotypes) (online item available)

Box 2

Physical Description: 5 photographs

Digital Object: [Photographs \(cased daguerreotypes\)](#)

Scope and Contents

Cased portrait photographs of various Whiting family members. Portraits include: Catherine (Kate) Gardner, wife of Nelson and later Lewis Whiting; Maria Maberlini, godmother to Bela Whiting, son of Lyman Whiting; Newell Chamberlain; Rev. Lyman Whiting, D.D.; Nelson Whiting, uncle.