INFORMATION FOR USERS

This addition is in boxes 3-5 of the collection.

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.

RESTRICTIONS
No restrictions

RELATED MATERIALS
A History of the Cadbury Family by John F. Crosfield (BX7721.C12 C94 1985), especially Family Tree 4

Marriage certificate of Caroline Cadbury and Thomas Kite Brown, in 990B-R

C.C.B.’s daughter Lydia Caroline Brown Cadbury’s memoir, A Quaker Girlhood (BX7747.C144 A3)

The Jones-Cadbury Family Papers (MS. 1172), Box 1

ABSTRACT

Much of this addition to the Cadbury-Brown papers consists of over 240 letters between Caroline Cadbury (1851-1914) and Thomas Kite Brown (1851-1929) during their engagement. There are also letters between Caroline’s parents Richard Cadbury (1825-1897) and Lydia Comfort Shinn (1828-1904) during their own engagement, as well as later letters from Caroline to her family. Miscellaneous items include an invitation to the wedding of Caroline Cadbury and Thomas K. Brown, Caroline’s will, pages from the diary of Caroline’s daughter, and letters to and from other members of the Cadbury family.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Richard Cadbury (1825-1897) was a partner in a dry goods business, which he then bought out. Later in life he worked as an accountant and as treasurer to public charities. He married Lydia Comfort Shinn in 1850, and they had four children, only two of whom survived, Caroline and Richard Tapper.

Caroline Cadbury (1851-1914) married Thomas Kite Brown, a teacher at Westtown Boarding School, in 1876, and they had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Surviving children were Richard Cadbury, Bertha, Shipley, Thomas Kite, Jr., Carroll Thornton, and Lydia Caroline. (Lydia married her first cousin Henry J. Cadbury.) In 1896 the Browns opened Back Log Camp, for paying guests who came to fish and camp, and the whole family was often involved in the project.

When Caroline was sixty she traveled to the Friends’ Mission in Tokyo.

Information is from A History of the Cadbury Family by John F. Crosfield, and internal evidence.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Brown, Caroline Cadbury, 1851-1914
Brown, Thomas Kite, 1851-1929
Courtship - Religious aspects - Christianity
Marriage - Religious aspects - Society of Friends
Quakers - Correspondence
Quakers - Family relationships
Quakers - Travel
Westtown School

BOX CONTENTS LIST

Box 3: Engagement letters from Caroline Cadbury to Thomas K. Brown, 1871-76
Box 4: Thomas K. Brown letters, 1872-1912
Box 5: Engagement letters of Richard Cadbury, Sr. and Lydia Comfort Shinn, 1849-50
    Letters from Caroline Cadbury to her family, 1866-1901 & undated
Other Cadbury-Brown family letters and miscellaneous items, 1850-1919
SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Much of this addition to the Cadbury-Brown papers consists of letters between Caroline Cadbury (1851-1914) and Thomas Kite Brown (1851-1929) during their engagement, about 130 written by Caroline and 115 by Thomas. As their engagement was prolonged over three years, the letters show the progression of their relationship as they get to know each other better. Some letters include small pressed flowers or samples of fabric from new clothes Caroline is sewing for herself. Some of Tom’s 1875 letters offer a glimpse into the life of a nineteenth-century teacher at Westtown School. Other letters touch on the couple’s intellectual interests and spiritual strivings. Included in Box 4 are two tin type portraits believed to be of Thomas K. Brown.

There are also letters between Caroline’s parents Richard Cadbury (1825-1897) and Lydia Comfort Shinn (1828-1904) during their own engagement, as well as letters from Caroline to her mother, describing her early married life, and later ones to her children, written during a 1906 tour of Europe. Miscellaneous items include an invitation to the wedding of Caroline Cadbury and Thomas K. Brown, Caroline’s will, pages from the diary of Caroline’s daughter, and letters to and from other members of the Cadbury-Brown family.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 3: C.C.B. Letters to T.K.B. before and during engagement, 1871-1876

8 folders, about 130 letters

Note: Subjects include the length of the wait until their marriage, plans for the future, daily activities, friends and family, books, religion. Highlights include the following:

1873 3/23. Carrie passionately tries to reconcile her intellectual belief in evolution with her efforts to be a better Christian.
1873 7/20. A long letter that contains a vivid description of intellectual curiosity and frustration with Quaker disapproval of the fine arts.
1873 11/14. Carrie worries over the difference between her more liberal and Tom’s more conservative versions of Quakerism.
1874 7/14. L.C.S.C. has read over her own engagement letters and claims that “they made her sick!” She asked Caroline about her letters to T.K.B.
1874 9/17. Includes an algebra problem that stumped her brother Rich.
1875 3/14. Caroline responds patiently and affectionately to Thomas’s news that they must wait another year to be married.
1875 3/28. Contains quotation from The Subjection of Women [J.S. Mill?]
1875 5/16. Contains two tiny pressed flowers wrapped in paper and labeled “For my love.”
1875 11/2. Caroline is afraid that Tom will have to shave his beard at Westtown, saying “I can’t bear to think of it. Don’t do it.”
1875 11/22. Caroline has counted the letters that T.K.B. has sent her over the
years, and she has 70! She also comments that [her brother?] Rich has written the addresses on some of Tom’s letters [to disguise the frequent correspondence?] and her father has offered to address some of her letters to Tom.

1875 11/28. Caroline regretfully discusses her lack of religious convictions.
1875 12/1. Caroline is dismayed at the possibility of waiting another year to be married.
1876 1/4. Caroline and her friend struggle over whether to call themselves Christians.
1876 1/28. Caroline has received a “long letter” from brother Richard. This letter may be the one in Box 3. See Box 3, section VII below.
1876 2/3. Scrap of silk attached to letter; sample of what Caroline wants for her wedding dress although it is very expensive at $3/yard.
1876 2/22, 2/25. Caroline is sewing her wedding dress.
1876 3/2. Enclosed letter from Richard who is dismayed about the projected cost of his planned year at Harvard, but says that Caroline and Thomas will be “perfectly happy” and advises them on their wedding trip to N.Y.
1876 3/7, 3/14, 3/22. Concern wedding gifts received.
1876 3/20. Enclosed samples of cloth used for Caroline’s new dresses. Also, mention of the note from Uncle Earl which is in this collection. See Box 3, section VII below.
1876 3/23. Concerns wedding plans, invitations, etc.
1876 3/27. One of several mentions of Sarah’s illness; she has seen the doctor.
1876 3/29. Last letter before the wedding. Carrie mentions getting some of the invitations customized to say “thy” instead of “your.”

Undated letter. Includes a forwarded letter from Richard T. Cadbury. Envelope, [addressed by Richard for his sister Caroline’s letter to T.K.B.?]

Box 4: T.K.B. Letters, 1872-1912, 6 folders

I. to C.C.B. before and during engagement, 1872-1876, about 115 letters

Note: Subjects include daily activities, news of friends and family, plans for their future, and expressions of love. Highlights include:

Two tintype images, perhaps of T.K.B.
1873 5/28. Sweet love letter in which Tom asks Caroline to write her own thoughts rather than sending him printed works to read, and considers the different ways they will be able to help each other in life.
1874 7/1. Tom describes his meal at an affordable restaurant: “more than I could eat, for forty cents.”
1874. 7/31. Tom has read Caroline’s diary at her invitation.
1874 8/20. Tom’s estimate of how much it will cost the two of them to live per year.

1875 5/16. In a moving letter, Tom eloquently envisions their future lives together, so closely connected that “aid will be asked and granted as unconsciously as one hand helps the other.”

1875 7/11. Tom has reread some of Caroline’s letters from the past two years, and comments on how they seem to him now.

1875 8/13. Tom laments the debt his father incurred, which he is now responsible for, and which has delayed their wedding date.

1875 9/9. Mention of the Westtown job; Tom considers whether he should accept it.

1875 9/12. Tom considers how he would like to raise their children.

1875 11/1. Tom has just arrived at Westtown for his new position.

1875 11/3. Tom describes his classes in mathematics and Scripture at Westtown, and of his room, including a drawing of the floor plan. Considerations of how to decorate and arrange the room appropriately (“no one could object” to photos of nature). Also, no one has yet objected to Tom’s beard.

1875 11/11. Tom complains about the slowness of the mail. Letters take more than 24 hours to arrive.

1875 11/29. Tom has found a cache of his old letters. He describes two early ones from Caroline, and encloses two small notes from “Susie” (“S. Wistar, now S. Comfort”) for Caroline to do with what she chooses.

1875 11/30. Considerations of whether money problems must delay their marriage.

1876 1/6. Tom explains his financial situation, and regrets that Caroline has had to wait so long for them to be married.


1876 3/24. Enclosed: two small pressed flowers and two samples of exam questions from Westtown classes.

II. Later letters from T.K.B. to C.C.B., 1912, 3 letters

1912 8/11. News from the camp, references to Caroline’s upcoming trip to Japan.

9/20. News of family, business, the camp. Thomas considers whether to accept a job as school principal. He also has tried dictating letters into a phonograph for the first time.

9/27. The school identified as Westtown.

III. Letters to T.K.B., not from family, 3 letters


1898 8/15. Text of telegram? Reporting illness of “Carry.”


Box 5: Miscellaneous Cadbury-Brown letters and other items, 1849-1919

I. Richard Cadbury, Sr. & L.C.S.C. letters, 1849-1885 & undated, 1 folder
   (1) Engagement letters of Richard Cadbury and L.C.S.C.
Note: Subjects include their eagerness to meet again, invitations to visit, discussions of propriety, and descriptions of daily activities. Some notes were apparently sent between pages of borrowed books.

- Richard to Lydia. About 8 letters, undated.
- Lydia to Richard, about 30 letters, most undated, some with date added (later?) in pencil. Including:
  - 1849 8/15. Lydia witnessed a woman’s attempted suicide.
  - Envelope, no legible date, with tiny postscripts written on and under the flap
  - Several notes consisting only of a poem

(2) Later letters (or of uncertain date) by L.C.S.C.
- [From L.C.S.C.?] 3 letters, no year or signature. Two (4th day morn. and 4th day aft.) possibly to C.C.B., offering child rearing advice, worries about her health, news of friends & family. The other (6th day noon) to husband Richard Cadbury. Also one post card dated 1885, to C.C.B.
- To Richard Cadbury, 2 letters.

II. C.C.B. (Carrie) to family, 1866-1876, 1 folder, 6 letters
1866. “Dear people that are interested.” Carrie’s visit to the seaside.
1872 7/23. To mother. Traveling.
1872 8/6. To father and mother. Describes hiking and picnicking, and disputes over women’s rights and over religion.
1874 11/16. To “My own darling!” [Anna]. A reply to Anna’s letter sent from Munich.
Fragment of another letter, no date.

III. From C.C.B. to family & friends, 1876-1890s, 2 folders, about 40 letters

Note: C.C.B. married T.K.B. 1876 4/12.
Many letters are numbered by an unknown person, but numbers have not been relied on as guides to correct order. Subjects include friends and family news, buying and sewing of clothes, C.C.B.’s adaptation to married life, the difficulty of finding a good maid, the house being built and furnished at Westtown. Most letters are to mother L.C.S.C. but one is to [sister?] Sarah (undated but filed after 1876 6/11) and one is to husband T.K.B. (1877 10/5).

Highlights include:
1876 7/31. C.C.B. and T.K.B. have seen the plans for the house Westtown School is to build for them, and have many objections and requests. (Letter damaged and incomplete.) Many later letters mention the house’s progress.
[1877] 1/28. Letter to “Father” dated 1876 but date seems to be mistaken. Accompanied
by a note from T.K.B. to “Father” dated 1877 1/28 and mentioning the same
lecture on currency.
1877 2/2 & 2/13. Refer to the recent death of Sarah, C.C.B.’s sister.
Undated, small note. (Filed after letter dated 1877 3/25.) Refers obliquely to C.C.B.’s
first pregnancy.
1877 4/12. Mentions first anniversary. Furnishing the house. (incomplete letter)
1877 10/5. Letter to T.K.B. who is away from home. Mention of baby [Richard].
1877 12/2. Mention of baby. He is four months old.
1879 8/7. To beloved Aunts. With envelope addressed to Elizabeth Cadbury.
1883 11/12. To brother [Richard Tapper]. Rich (son) is going to elementary school.
1894 9/10. To Aunt Pattie. Thank-you note for a gift of spoons from an aunt C.C.B.
barely remembers. Interesting and vivid descriptions of C.C.B.’s children, whose
ages range from five to seventeen, and glowing account of husband T.K.B.
1895. 8/24. To Harriet [friend?]. Camp life, books, news of friends.
189? Two letters to Harriet, who is ill. C.C.B. sends love and prayers, and describes her
own daily life.

IV. C.C.B. Letters, 1900-01 & undated, 2 folders, about 45 letters + 10 post cards
Mostly to brother Richard Tapper Cadbury and mother L.C.S.C. One
to Helen [Richard’s wife?], one to nephew Earl, one to son Ship, one to friend
Harriet. Subjects include family & friends news, concerns about C.C.B.’s and
Richard’s mother L.C.S.C., and descriptions of traveling and of T.K.B.’s camp.
Highlights are marked with paper slips in the folder, because most letters are undated:
C.C.B. plans to hear Charlotte Perkins Gilman speak; C.C.B. refuses to let her
sons spend their freshman year at Haverford because of excessive hazing;
C.C.B.’s daughter Bertha is invited to hear David Bispham; C.C.B. says that
Quakers of different social classes are more inclined to mix together these days.

V. C.C.B. Letters from Europe, 1906, 1 folder, 13 letters, about 25 postcards
6/22-26. On board ship; C.C.B. is not seasick although her companions
are, including T.K.B. She mentions “that book about the Chicago meat,
‘The Jungle.’”
1906 7/2-8. Paris and Switzerland
1906 7/11-22. Italy
1906 7/24-30. Switzerland again to escape the heat
1906 8/2-28. England
1906 9/2-7. On shipboard returning home.

VI. C.C.B. Miscellaneous items, 1 folder (contents completely listed below)
- Invitation to wedding of C.C.B. and T.K.B., with lists of wedding guests, clipped
newspaper announcement of the marriage, and white ribbon from C.C.B.’s
bouquet.
- 1874 11/5. Letter to Carrie from her friend Mary Haines, who is expecting her first
baby.
- List of books
- Will of Caroline C. Brown, one typewritten page.
  Rufus Jones spoke at the funeral.
- Typed 2-page description of Emma Cadbury’s visits to West Coast meetings in 1941-
  42. Author unknown.
- List of names and addresses
- Diary describing travels in Europe. No year or signature.
- Birthday/daily scripture book, which belonged to C.C.B.

VII. Other Cadbury-Brown Family letters, 1 folder (contents completely listed)
From B.B. [Bertha Brown?] to Dick [Richard Brown?]. Two letters.
1904 3/20. Reporting on price and availability of pictures Dick is looking for, and
describing Bertha’s studies of German and Japanese: “My Japanese is a wonder to
From Thomas K. Brown, Jr. 1907 8/25. Writing to family from Heidelberg.
  1907 8/26. To Rod from Heidelberg.
From Emma Cadbury to Richard. 1919 2/15. Typed response to letters from Richard
  [Richard Tapper Cadbury?]
From George Cadbury, 1919, 1/20. Typed letter to R.T. Cadbury, from “Thy attached
cousin” with enclosed clipping of a letter to the editor written by George and
published in The Friend.
[From Lydia Caroline Brown?] No date. Fragment of a child’s letter with drawings,
signed Lillie and addressed to Mary P. Brown.
[From Richard Tapper Cadbury?] No date. From R to mother. Traveling.
From Richard Tapper Cadbury. No date, but mentions sister’s [C.C.B.’s] impending
marriage, so must be 1876. This may be the letter mentioned in C.C.B.’s letter to
T.K.B., 1876 1/28, in Box 1.
[From Anna Kaign Lowry?] 1886 7/17. To “My Dear Sister L” [L.C.S.C.? Note: If this
is from Anna K. Lowry, a reference to “the boy” may be to Henry Joel Cadbury,
1883-1974.] Family news.
[From Anna K. Lowry?] 1886 7/21. Aunt Anna expects a visit from Carrie’s mother,
and urges Carrie to join them.
From Aunt Mary to Lydia Shinn. 1850 12/3. Note accompanying a gift and referring to
Lydia’s engagement.
From [Uncle] Earl [Shinn?], 1876 3/17. Agreeing to write the marriage certificate for
Several letter fragments without dates, salutations, or signatures.

MATERIALS REMOVED
None.

PROCESSING INFORMATION
Processed by J’aime Wells, completed March 2007.