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Summary Information

Repository: Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Creator: Wistar, Thomas, 1798-1876

Title: Thomas Wistar journals

Date [inclusive]: 1841-1876

Extent: 0.42 Linear feet

Language: English

Preferred Citation

Thomas Wistar journals (MC.975.01.089), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Thomas Wistar (1798-1876) was born June 23, 1798, in Philadelphia, Pa to Thomas Sr. and Mary (Waln) Wistar. Wistar was active in Indian affairs, beginning in 1838, and was appointed as an Indian commissioner in 1841. Thomas Wistar married twice- his first wife was Elizabeth Buckley Morris, who he married in 1822. The couple had two children, and Elizabeth died in 1863. In 1867, Wistar married Mary Richardson. According to his obituary in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, the Indians Wistar visited named him “Man with a tear in his eye.” Thomas Wistar died on January 16, 1876 in Philadelphia, Pa at the age of 78.


Scope and Content note

This collection is composed of five bound, handwritten journals by Thomas Wistar. Each volume includes daily entries interspersed with correspondence. Journal entries largely describe Wistar’s work as an Indian Commissioner, including visits to Washington D.C. and various trips to Indian Reservations, and Indian Agencies including the Seneca Nation and the Wichita Indian Agency. In addition to his work as a commissioner, entries detail social calls with family and friends, descriptions of Quaker meetings, and religious reflection and prayers.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July 2015

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition

Unknown.
Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed July 2015.

Related Materials

Related Materials
• MC 950.056 Dodge, Starin, and Wistar family papers
• MC 962 Taylor family papers
• MC 966 Nicholas Waln family papers
• MC 975.02.029 Thomas Wistar letterbook
• MC 1003 Associated Executive Committee on Indian Affairs records, 1758-1929
• MC 1034 Hoag Indian papers
• MC 1104 Enoch Hoag letterbooks
• MC 1188 Thomas Wistar and family papers

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
• Diaries.
• Quakers -- Diaries

Subject(s)
• Courtship -- Religious aspects -- Society of Friends
• Indians of North America--Government relations.
• Kickapoo Indians -- History
• Marriage -- Religious aspects -- Society of Friends
• Osage Indians -- History
• Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
• Quakers--History
• Seneca Indians
Collection Inventory

Vol. 1 1841-1866

Scope and Content

Pages 7-19 include early reminiscences, circa 1804-1842. Entries include a description of Wistar’s arrest for embezzlement after traveling to Green Bay, Wisconsin to make a payment to the Indians there on behalf of the U.S. government, and his ultimate release after an investigation determined he was innocent of the charge.

Vol. 2 1866-1869

Scope and Content note

Pages i-ii record trips taken by Wistar, including the dates and the miles traveled for each trip. Pages 137-138 provide genealogical information. Entries describe Wistar’s upcoming second marriage to Mary Richardson.

Vol. 3 1869-1871

Scope and Content note

Newspaper clippings included in front covers concerning Quakers & Indians, and the Quakers applications to the U.S. government on behalf of American Indian tribes.

Vol. 4 1871-1873

Vol. 5 1873-1875
Scope and Content note

Wistar is sent on a visit to the Wichita Indian Agency by the Indian Aid Association.