Elfreth family commonplace books, 1820-1853
MC.975.03.010
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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April 19, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elfreth, Jacob R. Jr., 1837-1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elfreth, Jacob R., 1789-1870</td>
</tr>
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<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elfreth, Jane P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elfreth, Rebecca P., 1835-1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Elfreth family commonplace books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1820-1853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
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### Preferred Citation

Elfreth family commonplace books (MC.975.03.010), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

The Elfreth family was a notable Philadelphia Quaker family during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. (1789-1870), was initially apprenticed to enter into the hardware trade, Elfreth Sr. left the trade to become a teacher, first in New Jersey, and later at the Westtown school. He later became a bookkeeper for the Leigh Navigation Company, his occupation until he retired. Elfreth Sr. married Abigail Pierce in 1821, and the couple had ten children.

Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. (1827-1924), the son of Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. and Abigail Pierce Elfreth, was born on October 22, 1837 in Philadelphia, PA. He was a Quaker merchant, elder, and minister. Initially apprenticed for five years to J.R. Sowers & Co., dry goods, Elfreth started a carpet business with his brother, James Elfreth. Elfreth Jr. never married and died November 14, 1924 in Landsdowne, PA.

Rebecca P. Elfreth (1835-1906) was born March 11, 1835 in Philadelphia, Pa., the daughter of Jacob R. Elfreth and Abigail P. Elfreth. Elfreth died August 19, 1906.

Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of five volumes of the commonplace books of various members of the Elfreth family, including: Rebecca P. Elfreth, Jacob R. Elfreth Sr., Jacob R. Elfreth Jr., and Jane P. Elfreth. The volumes include poetry, extracts, pressed leaves and flowers, and clippings of illustrations.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections August 2015

Use Restrictions

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

Acquisition
Unknown.

Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed August 2015.

Related Materials

Related Materials

- MC 851 American Friends letters collection
- MC 1221 Elfreth family papers
- MC.975.01.020 Jacob R. Elfreth diaries
- MC.975.01.019 Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. diaries

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Commonplace books

Subject(s)

- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Poetry.
- Quaker women
- Quakers
- Quakers--History
Rebecca P. Elfreth

Collection Inventory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca P. Elfreth 1850</td>
<td>0.04 Linear feet</td>
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**Scope and Content note**

This collection is comprised of the single volume commonplace book of Rebecca P. Elfreth. It includes poetry, extracts, pressed leaves and flowers, and clippings of illustrations.

**Biographical note**

Rebecca P. Elfreth (1835-1906) was born March 11, 1835 in Philadelphia, Pa., the daughter of Jacob R. Elfreth and Abigail P. Elfreth. Elfreth died August 19, 1906.

| Commonplace book 1850 | 0.04 Linear feet |

| Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. 1820-1853 | 0.12 Linear feet |

| Commonplace book 1820-1853 | 0.04 Linear feet |

**Scope and Content note**

Includes mathematical formulas for fractions, a record of coal shipped from Lehigh & Lackawanna mines from 1820-1836, nutrients of various dry goods, entries on astronomy, causes of death in Philadelphia, 1833-1835, notes on the Great Fire in New York (1835), tables with information concerning the Schuylkill Navigation Company, records of the weather from 1833-1853, and notes on the values of various currencies.

| Commonplace book 1833-1838 | 0.08 Linear feet |
Scope and Content note

This volume includes account of the burning of Pennsylvania Hall by anti-abolitionist riots in Philadelphia (1838) from Elfreth’s diary entries, poetry, extracts related to marriage, exercises in Greek, entries on riots in Baltimore, scientific discoveries, extracts on the “Seminole War,” the “War in Texas,” and notes on political events.

Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. Undated 0.08 Linear feet

Commonplace book Undated 0.08 Linear feet

Scope and Content note

This volume includes values of ship cargo, notes on bartering, examples of economic loss and gain, accompanied by mathematical equations, and genealogical information for the Trotter family.

Acquisition

The Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. commonplace book was donated to Special Collections, Haverford College, in 1941 by the Friends Historical Association.

Jane P. Elfreth 1834 0.04 Linear feet

Commonplace book 1834 0.04 Linear feet

Scope and Content note

This volumes begins with an account of when Elfreth’s father took her on board a brig in 1834, “a scriptural creed,” exercises in Greek, definitions of geographic terms, and geometric terms.