Hannah Bacon Evans letters
HC.Coll.1252
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

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<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Evans, Hannah Bacon, 1839-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Hannah Bacon Evans letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1888-1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>3.0 Boxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>The letters of Hannah Bacon Evans (1839-1939) written almost exclusively to her niece, Edith Wistar Stokes Silver (1873-1949) offering a picture of the life of an unmarried Quaker woman in Philadelphia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also letters to other family members, primarily on family life, but also missionary work and other topics. The letters have been transcribed.</td>
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### Preferred Citation note

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Special Collections, Quaker Collection, Hannah Bacon Evans Letters, Coll. No. 1252
Biographical/Historical note

Hannah Bacon Evans (1839-1939) was the daughter of Quakers Thomas Evans (1798-1868), one of the founders of Haverford College, and Catharine Wistar (1802-1871). She never married. She had three brothers and one sister, Katharine Wistar Evans who married Francis Stokes. Her main correspondent in this collection was their daughter, Edith Wistar Stokes, thus her niece. Bacon Evans was active in the Employment Society.

From: Tapestry Threads: Jonathan & Rachel Cope Evans, 1843-1911 / by J. Morris Evans. 1993

Edith Wistar Stokes Silver (1873-1949) was born in Germantown PA, the daughter of Quakers Katharine Wistar Evans and Francis Stokes. She married William Silver in 1897. She was active in civic organizations and was a member of Deer Creek Monthly Meeting, Maryland.

From: American Friend 37 (1949) : 142

Scope and Contents note

Hannah Bacon Evans (1839-1939) of Philadelphia, the daughter of Quakers Thomas Evans (1798-1868), and Catharine Wistar (1802-1871) is the chief letter writer in this collection. She wrote almost exclusively to her niece, Edith Wistar Stokes, who married William Silver, but occasionally to another niece, Esther, who seemed to live primarily with Bacon Evans. Silver lived in Hulings, W. VA and then in Maryland. The letters date from 1888 until 1925.

The letters mention family events, attending Quaker meeting, many Quakers whom Bacon Evans sees, daily events and amusements, clothing styles, domestic life, servants, treatment for ailments, the weather, children's upbringing, local travel. She mentions her uncle, Thomas Cope and family connections with Emlens, Copes, Stokes, Rhoads, Masons. The letters form a picture of the life of an unmarried Quaker woman in Philadelphia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With the passage of time, the letters note changes in families, as Edith Silver's children growing up, Bacon Evans' handwriting changes, health issues become more prominent and the weather becomes a bigger issue.

Highlights include:

1897. Tells Edith not to wash and iron, as that is what "the colored are used to working along at such things today and don't seem to mind it."

1898 3/6. Heard Joseph Hoffman play piano and it was remarked he was better than Paderewsky

1900 6/21. Visits Haverford College and reports on hearing J. Rendel Harris speak on Lady Guyon
1903 7/22. Reference to the death of Rufus Jones’ son
1907 6/9. Burning of Conowingo bridge
1908 3/28. Missionaries going to Brumanna, Syria
1909 2/16. Book club reading
1909 3/17. Agenda of a Tea Meeting
1911 11/9. Tea Meeting where William Warder Cadbury will speak
1920 12/19. Reference to Katharine Elkinton and Honey Run and the help

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access note
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Conditions Governing Use note
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Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Gift of Alison Stokes MacLean through J. Morris Evans, 1995

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Evans, J. Morris
• McLean, Alison Stokes
• Silver, Edith Wistar Stokes, 1873-1949

Subject(s)

• Quakers – Family relationships

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Seven floppy disks containing transcriptions of the letters accompanied the letters