

Haverford College Library  
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the  
THOMAS WISTAR BROWN PAPERS, ca.1701-1917

Collection No. 1025  
3 document boxes (1.5 linear feet)  
©April, 2007

**INFORMATION FOR USERS**

All correspondence 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 or historical importance of the letter writer.

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**RELATED MATERIALS**

These papers are closely related to the Moses Brown Collection, number 1024.

**ABSTRACT**

Although the central figure in this collection is the Philadelphia Quaker businessman and philanthropist, T. Wistar Brown (1826-1916), it also includes materials relating to his father Moses Brown, mother Mary Wistar Brown, and wife Mary Farnum Brown, along with other members of the Brown family. Among the papers are correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks and deeds.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Thomas Wistar Brown (1826-1916), a Quaker, was the son of Moses Brown and Mary Wistar Brown. He became a member of the Board of Managers of Haverford College in 1853 and remained in this capacity until his death. He was a great benefactor of the college, offering financial assistance when it was needed, and in 1892, he established a fund in memory of his wife, Mary Farnum Brown, which at its zenith

reached almost \$90,000, another in memory of his son which reached almost \$300,000, and the largest, in memory of his father, Moses Brown. In 1906, Brown began to establish a fund which would result, some ten years later, in a graduate school program at Haverford that offered biblical literature, philosophy and other courses to both men and women. Along with his major contributions to Haverford, he also was a member of the Indian Rights Association (1912-1916) and was a strong supporter of the Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs.

Information from: Dictionary of Quaker Biography

## **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Brown, Mary Farnum

Brown, Mary Wistar, b. 1807

Brown, Moses, 1793-1878

Brown, Thomas Wistar, 1826-1916

[Gurney, Eliza Paul, 1801-1881](#)

Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs

Haverford College – History

Indian Rights Association

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Correspondence, letter books, diaries, scrapbooks, account books, deeds, marriage certificates, genealogical material, and miscellaneous manuscript and printed items of, or about, Thomas Wistar Brown (1826-1916), his father Moses Brown (1793-1878), his mother Mary (Wistar) Brown (b. 1807), his brother Moses Brown (b. 1829), his wife Mary (Farnum) Brown, his son John Farnum Brown (1873-1894) and others. Under correspondence, there are four letters from Eliza Paul (Kirkbride) Gurney to Elizabeth W. Wistar. Included under miscellaneous manuscripts are extracts from the Minutes of Dover [N.H.] Monthly Meeting, 1701/2-1785, the will of William Brown of Dover, N.H., 4mo. 19 1833, and a poem by Joseph John Gurney, 1838. The collection also contains the Wistar Family tree.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

### **Box 1:**

Letterbook of Moses Brown of Philadelphia, 1827-1841. Laid in: 1 item.

Letterbook of Mary W. Brown, 1815-1834.

Diary of T. Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., 1833-34, kept by their parents.  
(At back of book: Minutes of Home Peace Society, 1837.)

Scrapbook of T[homas] W[istar] Brown, part 1. [n.d.]

Letterbook of T. Wistar Brown [n.d.] - 1914. Laid in: 33 items. [n.d.] - 1915.

### **Box 2**

Scrapbook: T. Wistar Brown selected letters, 1778 [bulk:1787] - 1916.

Account book of [one of the children of Thomas Wistar?] 1837-1873. [Entry for 11mo. 25, 1852, refers to death of father exactly one year earlier.] Laid in: 4 items.

### **Box 3:**

Account book of [T. Wistar Brown?], 1905-1909.

Diary of [T. Wistar Brown?] 1891-1915.

Mary Farnum's piece books, 2 vols. [n.d.]

Bird notes of John Farnum Brown, 2 vols., 1890-91.

Account of the sickness and death of the wife and daughter of Daniel Wheeler.  
Copy of a letter dated...near St. Petersburg, 12mo. 20, 1832.

Extracts from the diary of Elizabeth Young who died in England, 1842, aged 75 years. Laid in: 20 items.

Marriage certificate of Moses Brown and Catharine Morris, 1847. STORED IN 990B

Marriage certificate of Thomas Wistar Brown and Mary Farnum, 1871. STORED IN 990B

Certificate of T. Wistar Brown's membership in the Corporation of the Philadelphia House of Refuge. [n.d.] STORED IN 990B

Passport for Thomas Wistar Brown and wife, 1889.

**Deeds and Bonds:**

Thomas Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., to John F. Bird, 1852. (For land in Philadelphia)

Thomas Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., to Wm. R. Stockton, 1853. (Same)  
2 copies.

Thomas Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., to Wm. R. Stockton, 1853. (Same)  
2 copies.

Marmaduke C. Cope and wife to Thomas Wistar Brown et al., 1852. (Same)

Wm. R. Stockton and wife to Joel Reeves, 1853. (Same)

(Bonds) Wm. R. Stockton to Thomas Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., 1853.  
John F. Bird to Thomas Wistar Brown and Moses Brown, Jr., 1853.

Wistar Family Tree [n.d.] STORED IN 988-A

**Correspondence:**

Caspar Wistar to Mary W. Brown [n.d.]

Eliza Paul Gurney to [E.W. Wistar] West Hill [n.d.]

Eliza Paul Gurney to [E.W. Wistar] .

Eliza Paul Gurney to [E.W. Wistar]. Earlham Lodge [n.d.]

Eliza Paul Gurney to E.W. Wistar, West Hill, Burlington, 1874 2/15.

Mary (Wistar) Brown to Thomas Wistar Brown, Roxboro, 1867 8/26.

Mary (Wistar) Brown to Thomas Wistar Brown. 1868 6/14.

[Mary Farnum Brown?] to grandchildren. [Philadelphia, n.d.]. Moses Brown to daughter M.W.W.B. [Phila.] 1874 1/30. (copy) . E[lizabeth] H. F[arnum] to [Mary Farnum Brown?] Northwicke, [1878] 7/ 6

George S. Gerhard, M.D., to [T. Wistar] Brown. Ardmore, Pa., 1890 4/15,.

S. G. Bayne to [T. Wistar] Brown. New York, 1891 3/13.

E. H. Wistar to Elizabeth H. Farnum. [Phila.] 1892 12/2.

Telegrams of sympathy [on drowning of John Farnum Brown]: Benjamin H. Shoemaker, Norton Downs, J. M. Dacosta to Thomas Wistar Brown, 1894 5/16.

Edward Bettle, Jr., to Thomas Wistar Brown, 1899 5/ 12.

Thomas Wistar Brown to Mayor and Councils of the City of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, 1913 7/8.

Isaac Sharpless to [Thomas Wistar Brown] Haverford, Pa., 1914 3/ 2.

Allen C. Thomas to [?] Haverford, Pa., 1916 5/4.

Margaret W. Haines to [?] Cheltenham, Pa., 1916 9/ 11.

**Miscellaneous Manuscripts:**

Extracts from the Minutes of Dover [N.H.] Monthly Meeting. 1701/2 - 1785.  
[n.d.]

Poems by T [homas] W[istar] 1819. 1 item.

Will of William Brown, of Dover, N.H. 4mo. 19, 1833.

Album, by J. J. Gurney. 5mo. 7, 1838.

Poems copied for T. Wistar Brown, by Moses Brown, 1874-1875, 2 items.

Picture of Anthony Benezet's house in Philadelphia, with note, "Presented to T. Wistar Brown by his Grandmother Mary Wistar, 6mo. 3rd., 1838."

Three daily themes by J[ohn] F[arnum] Brown, while at Harvard, Dec. 5, 13, 21, 1893.

Recollections by [T. Wistar Brown], 7mo. 24, 1904.

Recommendation of committee to Board of Managers of Haverford College concerning possible request for resignation of Prof. Henry Cadbury. [ca. 1916]

Remarks at funeral of T. Wistar Brown.

**Miscellaneous Printed Items:**

- Picture of John Farnum [n.d.]
- The Youth's Monitor; or A Daily Text for the Month. Phila. [n.d.]
- Little Fret. Mass. Sabbath School Society. Boston, 1839.
- Map of the Circuit of Ten Miles Around the City of Philadelphia. 1847. (Property of Moses Brown)
- Newspaper clippings about Charley Ross kidnapping, fire in T. Wistar Brown's home, and tribute to him after his death. 4 items, [n.d.] - April 22, 1916.
- Tribute to T. Wistar Brown, taken from Haverford Alumni Bulletin, May 16, 1916
- 165th Annual Report of Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1916.
- Rules of the Philadelphia Dispensary...with the Annual Report...for 1916.
- Prospectus for the Thomas Wistar Brown Graduate School of Haverford College. With ms note from Isaac Sharpless, 3mo., 1917.

**Three Dimensional Objects:**

- Eyeglasses of T. Wistar Brown. Stored in 989B
- Card case of T. Wistar Brown. Stored in 989B

**MATERIALS REMOVED**

- Works of the British Poets, vol VIII. Milton. Phila., 1819.
- New Testament.
- Holy Bible.
- Tribute to the Memory of the Late Caspar Wistar, M.D.College of Physicians and Surgeons, U. of Pennsylvania, Jan. 26, 1818.
- An Eulogium in Commemoration of Dr. Caspar Wistar. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1818.
- The Derivation of the American Family of Wistars and Wisters.

The Wistar Museum of Anatomy. Reprint from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. April, 1894.

The Wistar Family. A genealogy of the descendants of Caspar Wistar. Richard Wistar Davids, comp. Philadelphia, 1896. to Quaker Collection