

# **Mahlon Day papers, 1787-1936**

## **MC.1129**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

April 20, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections  
370 Lancaster Ave  
Haverford, PA, 19041  
610-896-1161  
[hc-special@haverford.edu](mailto:hc-special@haverford.edu)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Arrangement note</u> .....	5
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	5
<u>Related Materials</u> .....	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	8
<u>Mahlon Day</u> .....	8
<u>Day Family</u> .....	13
<u>Miscellaneous Letters</u> .....	16
<u>Thurston Family</u> .....	18
<u>Photographs and Drawings</u> .....	19

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Day, Anna B.
<b>Creator</b>	Day, Edward M.
<b>Creator</b>	Day, Mahlon, 1790-1854
<b>Creator</b>	Day, Mary K.
<b>Creator</b>	Day, Susan B.
<b>Creator</b>	Thurston, William B.
<b>Title</b>	Mahlon Day papers
<b>Date</b>	1787-1936
<b>Extent</b>	1.5 Linear feet (3 boxes)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The Mahlon Day papers center on the West Indies journals kept by Day on his spiritual trip with Joseph John Gurney in 1839-40, and his letters which touch on a range of topics from religious to political to business to family.

### Preferred Citation note

Mahlon Day papers (MC 1129), Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

## Biographical note

---

Mahlon Day was a printer and publisher of children's books, including many moral tales. He was an active member of the Society of Friends, and served as clerk of New York Yearly Meeting. His interests led him to serve as a trustee of African Free Schools and as a manager of the New York Institution for the Blind, among other activities.

Day, born in Morristown, New Jersey, on August 27, 1790, was the son of Samuel and Nancy Day and brother of Stephen Munson, Samuel Jr., Susan, Phoebe, Abraham, Jared, Jehiel, Ira, and Nancy Jr. In 1815, he married Mary Kerr. Their children were Mary Jr., Sarah, Anna, Susan, Edward, and Jane. This latter Jane married William Thurston; thus the small collection of Thurston letters, documents, and photographs among these papers.

In 1839-1840, Day traveled to the West Indies with Joseph John Gurney, a Quaker minister and anti-slavery advocate.

In 1854, when Mahlon Day, his wife Mary, and daughter Susan were returning from England, their ship, the *Arctic*, was rammed by another boat. The *Arctic* sank, taking the three Days with it. There are letters of sympathy in this collection, primarily to the Day children.

---

## Scope and Contents note

---

The Mahlon Day Papers include his journals from 1839 to 1843, including the journal of his trip to the West Indies in 1839-1840. There are also his letters which touch on a range of topics from religious to political to business and family.

Other day family materials include letters of Mary K. Day (1852-54), letters of Edward M. Day (1854-58), letters (1847-77) journals of Anna B. Day (166-67, 1877, 1890?) documenting trips to Europe, and letters (1854) and a commonplace book (1840) of Susan B. Day.

Miscellaneous letters include sympathy letters on the death of Mahlon Day, other miscellaneous writings, including poetry, and genealogical information on Days and Thurstons.

Thurston family materials include letters from 1767 to 1906, and an account book (1879-90) and ship's log (1868-79) of William Thurston, Jr.

There are photographs (including daguerreotypes), drawings, and silhouettes of Days and Thurstons, drawings, including two by Joseph John Gurney and Amelia Mott Gummere, and a 1936 photo album.

## Arrangement note

---

### Series I. Mahlon Day

#### Subseries I

Journals

#### Subseries II

Letters

### Series II. Day Family

#### Subseries I

Mary K. Day

#### Subseries II

Edward M. Day

#### Subseries III

Anna B. Day

#### Subseries IV

Susan B. Day

### Series III. Miscellaneous Letters

### Series IV. Thurston Family

### Series V. Photographs and Drawings

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

### Revision Description

Revised by Elizabeth Peters April 2015

### Use restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Laws Apply (U.S. Title 17)

### Acquisition

Unknown.

## Processing Information

Revised by Elizabeth Peters; completed April 2015.

---

## Related Materials

---

### Separated Materials note

Newspaper articles covering the wreck of the *Arctic* to PG6.

Newspaper clippings and pamphlet of the Women's Prison Association, 1855, to PG6.

Obituaries of Joseph John Gurney and genealogical chart of the Gurney family to PG6.

Two colored flower drawings by Jane R. Day to 988 A-R.

Large engravings of Joseph John Gurney and Elizabeth Gurney Fry to 988 B-R.

Fry, Elizabeth Gurrey. *Texts for every day of the year*. New York: Mahlon Day, 1839. OCLC 48886668.

Horsley, Samuel. *Book of Psalms*. London: 1833. OCLC 2650564.

Macduff, John. *Words of Jesus*. New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1854. OCLC 6618463.

*Texts...*, 1856. (Not Mahlon Day imprint)

Watts, Isaac. *Divine Songs*. New York: Mahlon Day, 1837. OCLC 210136907.

Mason, John. *Treatise on Self Knowledge*. Boston: J. Loring, 1833. OCLC 5057779.

Bible. London: John Field, 1658.

Aikin, John. *The calendar of nature*. London: Baldwin, 1835. OCLC 84979916.

Ely, Aaron. *A School Dictionary of selected words*. New York: Mahlon Day, 1833. OCLC 20080725.

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

### Personal Name(s)

- Gurney, Joseph John, 1788-1847

**Subject(s)**

- Society of Friends -- West Indies

## Collection Inventory

<b>Mahlon Day 1814-1854</b>		
<b>Journals 1839-1843</b>		
<b>General note</b>		
Dates given for journals are the first recorded date in each.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Journal I. 11 mo 22nd, 1839	1	1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Voyage from New York		
Journal II. 12 mo 7th, 1839	1	1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
St. Croix: copies of Gurney's poems; drawings, accounts		
St. Thomas		
Journal III. 1 mo 1st, 1840	1	2
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		

Journals

Tortola: meeting at which J.J. Gurney spoke  
 St Christopher's: poems, meeting with "colored population", visit to Moravian School for children of African descent  
 St. John's: plea for abolition, purchase of a sugar estate by some "Negroes", copy of letter to Elizabeth Fry, other meetings reported  
 Danish Islands' black population not freed, only English

Journal IV. 2 mo 13th, 1840 1 3

**Scope and Contents note**

St Croix  
 Jamaica: preaching by J.J. Gurney, anti-slavery society resolutions  
 St. Amis Bay  
 Falmouth  
 Montego Bay

Journal V, part 1. 3 mo 31st, 1840 1 4

**Scope and Contents note**

At sea

Journal V, part 2. 4 mo 10th, 1840 1 4

**Scope and Contents note**

Havana: witnessed condition of slave quarters and markets at which they are purchased

## Journals

Savannah

Journal V, part 3. 4 mo 24th, 1840	1	4
------------------------------------	---	---

**Scope and Contents note**

Savannah

Charleston

Washington: went to House of Representatives, met with Rep. Holmes, heard speeches in the Senate, including J.Q. Adams. Introduced to John C. Calhoun and discussed, with J.J. Gurney, the question of slavery, emancipation and its success in the West Indies. Met also with Henry Clay, President van Buren, James Monroe and others.

Travelling north, stopped at Burlington and were met by Stephen Grellet.

"West Indies"	1	5
---------------	---	---

**Scope and Contents note**

Single-volume summary of the above journals, omitting the return trip and visit to Washington.

"Emancipation in the West Indies" 1843	1	5
--	---	---

**Scope and Contents note**

Article appearing in the *New York Evangelist*, pasted into a notebook. Describes Mahlon Day's opinions on slavery based on his trip to the West Indies.

## Letters

**Letters 1814-1854****General note**

Not all letters are indexed below; those selected were chosen on the basis of author and/or content.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Letters 1814-1854	1	6
<b>to Sarah Day. October 1, 1814.</b>		
mind occupied with business and extra military duty; feels he must serve his country; many people fleeing into countryside for fear of invasion.		
<b>to Sarah Day. November 19, 1814.</b>		
would like to vacation when his business (a newspaper) is partially suspended; asks her opinion of his marrying someone.		
<b>to children. 4 mo 19th to 4 mo 29th, 1854.</b>		
Journal: voyage from New York to Liverpool on the steamer <i>Atlantic</i> , including sighting of an iceberg.		
<b>to children. 5 mo 2nd, 1854.</b>		
travelling through Dublin and Wales; Irish Friends.		
<b>to children. 5 mo 6th, 1854.</b>		
Dublin Yearly Meeting, people and sights.		
<b>to children. 5 mo 14th, 1854.</b>		
met with Eli and Sybil Jones in Manchester.		

## Letters

**to children. 5 mo 21st, 1854.**

fascinated by sights of London; tea with Bevan Braithwaite who presented him with 2-volume journal of J.J. Gurney; attended London Yearly Meeting; does not feel John Wilbur has made much impression on London Friends.

**to Edward. 5 mo 26th, 1854.**

letter concerning business matters.

**to children. 5 mo 30th, 1854.**

in London Yearly Meeting, Joseph Sturge and Henry Pease talked about their visit to Russia and interview with the czar. John Bright also spoke.

**to children. 6 mo 2nd, 1854.**

Two weeks of London Yearly Meeting are over.

**to children. 6 mo 19th, 1854.**

describes visit to the Crystal Palace (London); tells son about laying in provisions for the winter.

**to children. 6 mo 24th, 1854.**

France hard up for fuel -- no coal, no wood; sights of Paris.

**to children. 7 mo 2nd, 1854.**

sights of Switzerland.

**to children. 7 mo 21st, 1854.**

description of Heidelberg, Cologne, Brussels, etc.

**to Edward. 7 mo 27th, 1854.**

Day Family

business letter concerned with rents and stocks.

**to children. 8 mo 11, 1854.**

have returned to England, may take the steamer *Arctic* home, but are not yet sure.

**to children. 8 mo 17th, 1854.**

will depart on the *Atlantic* on September 29th, destined for New York.

**to children. 8/18/54**

visited the graves of J.J. Gurney and Amelia Opie.

**to children. 8 mo 28th, 1854.**

change of sailing dates means they will depart with the *Arctic*.

**to children. 9 mo 7th, 1854.**

touring Scotland.

**Day Family 1847-1890**

**Mary K. Day 1852-1854**

**Box Folder**

Letters 1852-1854

1

7

**Scope and Contents note**

Edward M. Day

Letters written from England telling of attending Friends meetings, family matters, contemporary medication for minor ailments, etc. To children and husband. Approximately 42 letters.

**Edward M. Day 1854-1858**

**Box Folder**

Letters 1854-1858

1 8

**Scope and Contents note**

to Jane R. Thurston. Two letters.

**Anna B. Day 1847-1890**

**Box Folder**

Letters 1847-1877

1 9

**General note**

Not all letters are indexed below; those selected were chosen on the basis of author and/or content. There are approximately 27 letters.

**to Mahlon Day. 2 mo, 1847.**

sends extracts of letters with accounts of the decease of J.J. Gurney.

**to nephews Mahlon and Phillie. 8 mo 4th, 1857.**

encloses four miniature photographs (tin?) of herself and someone else.

**to family members. May 12th-September 1st, 1867.**

multiple letters written from various locations around Europe.

**to family members. June-October, 1877.**

multiple letters written from various locations around Europe.

**unaddressed, n.d.**

description of the meeting in England of Mahlon and Mary Day with Eli and Sybil Jones before the formers' fateful departure for America.

**Minute of New York Monthly Meeting**

minute issued when supplying the place of treasurer left vacant by the death of Mahlon Day. Copied by Anna B. Day.

**by Richard Mott, 10/15/1854.**

summary of sermon delivered by Richard Mott.

Journal I. 1866-1867 2 1

**Scope and Contents note**

trips to England, France, Italy. Includes pressed flowers notched in.

Journal II. 1867 2 2

**Scope and Contents note**

trips to England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, France. Includes unattached papers, one a satirical poem about Woodrow Wilson, as well as pressed flowers and photographs.

Journal III (1877) and Journal IV (1890?) 2 3

**Susan B. Day****Scope and Contents note**

Journal III: trips to Switzerland, England, France, Austria.

Journal IV: trip to Italy. May not be in the hand of Anna B. Day. Papers of a different hand laid in.

**Susan B. Day 1840-1854**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Letters 1854	2	4

**Scope and Contents note**

letters descriptive of the voyage to England on the *Arctic*, travels about England and the continent and Meetings attended. To family. Approximately 25 letters.

Commonplace Book 1840	2	5
-----------------------	---	---

Queen of May Book: May Day Excursions	2	6
---------------------------------------	---	---

**Miscellaneous Letters 1803-1883**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Sympathy Letters re: deaths on the <i>Arctic</i> 1854	2	7
Miscellaneous Letters 1803-1883	2	8

**General note**

Miscellaneous Letters

---

Not all letters are indexed below; those selected were chosen on the basis of author and/or content. Letters are ordered by last name of author, then by date.

**Braithwaite, Ann to John Griscom. 8 mo 1st, 1831.**

J(oseph?) Taylor has been with them and gone to Meetings.

**Day, Beldin to Anna B. Day. February 7, 1883.**

sends drawing for Day coat-of-arms to be printed for bookplates.

**Day, Susan to S. Munson Day. April 6, 1803.**

is disturbed by the way in which he has talked about religion.

**Dix, D(orthea) L(ynde) to John Candler. n.d.**

sorry they had so short a time to converse.

**Field, M.B. October 3, 1860.**

printed letter of invitation to a ball honoring the Prince of Wales.

**Gurney, Joseph John to Mahlon Day. n.d.**

cannot attend Meeting, asks that Day send him and some others copies of "Remarks."

**Harrison, Smith to Joseph W. Taylor. 2 mo 25th, 1855.**

Days' visit to England discussed and sorrow at their loss.

**Longstreth, M.A. & S. to Mary K. Day. 6 mo, 1846.**

positive report on Mary Day's deportement and self-discipline in refraining from speaking with classmates during school hours.

**Thurston Family**

---

**Longstreth, M.A. & S. to Anna B. Day. 6 mo, 1846.**

positive report on Anna Day's deportement and self-discipline in refraining from speaking with classmates during school hours.

Miscellaneous Writings

2

9

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes copied poetry, instructions for properly setting a breakfast table, diagram of properly set dinner table, etc.

Genealogical Information

2

10

**Scope and Contents note**

Information for Thurston and Day family genealogies.

**Thurston Family 1787-1906**

**Box**

**Folder**

Letters 1767-1906

3

1

**General note**

Not all letters are indexed below; those selected were chosen on the basis of author and/or content. There are approximately 14 letters, mostly dealing with family matters.

**T(urston?), C. to Nan. April 19, (1906).**

**Photographs and Drawings**

has survived the earthquake in San Francisco, and reports some details of the disaster.

Account Book of William Thurston, Jr. 1879-1890	3	2
---	---	---

Ship's Log kept by William Thurston, Jr. 1868-1879	3	3
--	---	---

Notebook kept by William Thurston, Jr.	3	3
--	---	---

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes notes, copied poems, addresses, etc. Also keys to various ciphers and some notes written in them, particularly pigpen.

**Photographs and Drawings**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Drawings and Photographs	3	4

**Scope and Contents note**

- Painting of Mahlon Day (photograph)
- Painting of Mary Day (photograph)
- Family photographs mounted on paper
- Engraving of Anna Braithwaite
- Lithograph of Anna Braithwaite
- Steel engraving (?) of Christopher Wren Tower

## Photographs and Drawings

Pen & ink drawing of Friends Meeting House at Burlington, NJ, by Amelia Mott Gummere		
Pencil sketch of Anna B. Day by Joseph John Gurney		
Susan B. Day Daguerreotype in square red velvet case.	3	5
Mary & Anna B. Day Daguerreotype in square red velvet case.	3	5
Jane Day Thurston Daguerreotype in wooden box. Also includes tin(?) miniature.	3	5
Mahlon Day Daguerreotype in embossed black leather case.	3	6
Mahlon Day Daguerreotype in embossed brown leather case.	3	6
William Thurston, Sr. & Jane Thurston Daguerreotype in large leather case.	3	6
Mary K. Day Daguerreotype in black leather case.	3	7
Mahlon Day Photograph in black velvet frame.	3	7
Mary K. Day Silhouette in black oval frame.	3	7
Mahlon Day Pen & ink drawing, red velvet oval case.	3	8
Photo Album of Miss Nicholson, visiting Amy Thurston 1936 Red leather album, includes photographs and detailed captions.	3	8