

# Mary Louisa Slacum Benham Papers Finding Aid MS062

Mary Louisa Slacum Benham Papers (MS062)  
1802-1884



## Title Statement

Mary Louisa Slacum Benham Papers Finding Aid MS062

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-12-15 14:26:59 +0000.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS062

**Unit Date**

1802-1884

**Text**

02 (Assorted Box)

**Language**

English .

**Creator**

Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Extent**

.184 Cubic Feet 22 folders Contents include fragile handwritten documents. Handle with care.

**Repository**

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

## Administrative Information

## Preferred Citation

[item identification], Mary Louisa Slacum Benham Papers, MS062, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia.

## Content Description

Notes and reminiscences of Mrs. Benham's life from her childhood and youth in Alexandria to her adult travels along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Also covers the settlement of Oregon (through her brother William's experiences there), the careers of her siblings and her elderly musings. Alexandria sections include materials on Mrs. Benham's family life, the Potomac River, Monsieur Generis' dancing school, the Woods and Warren Play Actors (the summer theater), Parson Muir, Bishop Meade, Christ Church, Mount Vernon, Washington Lodge, Washington City and President Monroe's daughter's wedding. Also highlighted are many prominent Virginia and Washington D.C. families such as the Washington's, Lewis', Moore's, McCormick's, Meade's and Vowell's. Local customs, social life and institutions are discussed.

## Keywords

Alexandria (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century.

Benham family

Benham, Mary Louise Slacum, 1802-1884

Oregon -- History -- To 1859

Reminiscences

Slacum family

Washington (D.C.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

## Accruals

No accruals are expected.

## Biographical Information/Organizational History

Daughter of George Slacum (1756-1810), an Alexandria, Virginia, merchant and Jane Howard. Sister of George Washington Slacum, a State Department consul, and William Slacum, a purser in the Navy. Ms. Benham grew up in Alexandria. She moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1830 upon her marriage to lawyer, Joseph S. Benham. They had three daughters. In 1839, the Benham's moved to New Orleans. From c. 1870-1884, she lived in San Francisco with her daughter, where she wrote these memoirs.

## Custodial History

Material was acquired from the Lloyd House (Alexandria, VA.), through Mrs. Betsy Stark, the descendant of Mrs. Benham.

## Existence and Location of Originals

Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria Library

## Arrangement

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Memoirs

**Unit Date** 1870-1884

**Language** English.

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Early Memories**

**Unit Date** 1870-1880

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-1 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Potomac River**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-2 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Dancing School**

**Unit Date** 1882

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-3 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Alexandria Theater**

**Unit Date** 1882 May

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-4 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**My Father - "Why won't he come?"**

**Unit Date** 1880 September 7

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-5 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**My Childhood**

**Unit Date** 1882 March

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-6 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Around the World [Parson Muir]**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-7 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Meade's Virginia Families and Churches**

**Unit Date** 1883

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-8 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Bishop Meade/Meade Family**

**Unit Date** 1881-1882

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-9 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Mount Vernon**

**Unit Date** 1882

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-10 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Washington Lodge**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-11 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Washington City**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-12 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Monroe Wedding**

**Unit Date** 1820

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-13 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Trips to Ohio, 1830**

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-14 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Maryatt, 1838**

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-15 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Autumn, 1839. "William"**

**Unit Date** Autumn 1839

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-16 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**[Summer], 1839**

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-17 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**George D. Prentice [c. 1860-1865]**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-18 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Oregon**

**Unit Date** 1882 October 14

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-19 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**"The Swallow, Homeward Fly"**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-20 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884

**Musings**

**Unit Date** Undated

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 62-21 (folder)

**Creator** Mary Louisa Slacum Benham, 1802-1884