

Coley, Mary, Letters

Mary Coley Letters

1851-1876



Title Statement

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Author: John M. Jackson

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specref@vt.edu
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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1991.065

Unit Date

1851-1876

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Letters addressed to Mary Everit Coley of New Haven, Connecticut, from relatives and friends, focusing on personal activities and news, particularly illnesses and deaths, including the deaths of three infant children of Coley's friend, Isabelle Mercein Fuller.

Creator

Coley, Mary

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Mary Coley Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1991.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Mary M. Everit, daughter of Captain Richard and Sarah Mansfield Everit, was born in Connecticut around 1829. She married John H. Coley Jr. (ca. 1828-1892) in New Haven, Connecticut, on August 9, 1851; the Coleys would have at least four children (Mary C., Isabel C., William B., and John H.). The 1860 census lists John H. "Cooley" (a 31-year-old merchant) and Mary Cooley, 30, among the residents in the New Haven, Connecticut home of Richard and Sarah Everit. By 1870, the Coleys were living in their own home in New Haven, with five children and three servants. Late in life, John H. Coley suffered a financial setback and moved with Mary to Kansas, trying with mixed success to rebuild his fortune; by 1887, he was operating a steam laundry business in Emporia. He died in Parsons, Kansas, June 27, 1892, and was buried in New Haven. A widowed Mary M. Coley, 81, appears among the residents in the Litchfield, Connecticut, home of her son-in-law, Frank B. Draper, in the 1910 census. By 1912, Coley was living in New Milford (Litchfield County), Connecticut. Mary Everit Coley died in New Milford on July 7, 1912.

Scope and Content

This collection contains 24 letters addressed to Mary Everit Coley of New Haven, Connecticut, from relatives and friends. Included in the collection are seven letters from Coley's mother, S. M. E. [Sarah Mansfield Everit], which largely consist of family news. She also briefly describes a train trip to Akron, Ohio, to visit William and Addie; mentions the Battle of Gettysburg and William's position as a captain of a home guard unit; and complains about some dental work performed on her. She also describes a doctor's remedy for a head injury suffered by her grandson and discusses other family illnesses and the excitement surrounding the return of Union volunteers during the American Civil War. The collection also contains six letters from Coley's friend Isabelle [Isabelle Mercein Fuller, variously identified elsewhere as Isabel and Isabella]. Many of Fuller's letters focus on her mourning and coping with the deaths of three of her children in their infancies. Also included is a letter from niece Mary L. L. Mettauer of Prince Edward, Virginia, discussing the recent yellow fever deaths of her sister Sarah and brother-in-law. The collection also contains three letters from friend M. H. Goodyear [Mary Henrietta Colt Goodyear], who discusses family illnesses, including whooping cough. Within the three letters from friend Chas. H. Prescott is a description of an 1876 trip to Malaga, Spain. Other correspondents represented with letters in the collection are "Sister S. M.," M. A. Colt, Edward Eld, and (with a telegram) W. B. Coley. Also included are a railroad tax receipt for William E. Lane of Lebanon, Indiana; and two envelopes.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Women -- History

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1851-1876

folder 1