

Brotherton Family Collection

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1854-1887



Title Statement

Brotherton Family CollectionBrotherton Family Collection, 1854 - 1887 Ms.2024.062

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2024.062

Unit Date

1854-1887

Language

Materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract

The Brotherton Family Collection contains over 300 letters written during the 1850s and 1860s by members of the William H. and Sadie Brotherton family. The letters represent the Civil War era with letters that discuss the election of Abraham Lincoln and letters written by William Brotherton from a Confederate Prison at Richmond, Virginia. Most letters were written prior to the Civil War. There are also post-war letters written to William from his brother David, who served in the Army during the battles with the Navajo in New Mexico. He was part of the pursuit and capture of Chief Joesph and Sitting Bull. The collection also contains newspaper clippings and copies of newspapers. There are also handwritten papers, with many written by William Brotherton. These consist of papers related to a committee that William participated in, some financial documents, flyers, fragments, and other writings. The writings contain poems, songs, and essays.

source

Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center

Creator

Brotherton family (Pennsylvania)

Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated by the Montgomery Museum of Art and History to Special Collections in August 2018.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Brotherton Family Collection was completed in June 2024.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Brotherton Family Collection, 1854-1887, Ms2024-062, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The Brotherton family resided in Pennsylvania. William H. Brotherton was born on October 01, 1833. He worked as a store merchant. In 1863, he was drafted into the Union Army in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Some of his letters were written to Sadie during his service during the Civil War. After the war, he passed away on December 12, 1867.

Susan "Sadie" Smith Brotherton born on April 27, 1841. After her husband's death, she lived with her brother and children until her death on January 16, 1907.

Bibliography

The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC, USA; Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group: 110; Collection Name: Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records); NAI: 4213514; Archive Volume Number: 1 of 4. Ancestry.

The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M653; Residence Date: 1860; Home in 1860: Waynesboro, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1112; Page: 990; Family History Library Film: 805112. Ancestry.

Ancestry.com. U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Ancestry.

Ancestry.com. U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Ancestry.

Year: 1880; Census Place: Waynesborough, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1132; Page: 590b; Enumeration District: 115. Ancestry.

Year: 1900; Census Place: Waynesboro Ward 3, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1413; Page: 3; Enumeration District: 0065. Ancestry.

The National Archives in Washington, DC; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M432; Residence Date: 1850; Home in 1850: Waynesboro, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Roll: 781; Page: 171b. Ancestry.

Scope and Content

The Brotherton Family Collection contains over 300 letters, newspaper clippings, newspapers, and family papers. The letters were written in the 1850s and 1860s by friends and family of William H. and Sadie Brotherton. The letters represent the Civil War era with letters that discuss the election of Abraham Lincoln and letters written by William Brotherton from a Confederate Prison at Richmond, Virginia. Most letters were written prior to the Civil War. There are also post-war letters written to William from his brother David, who served in the Army during the battles with the Navajo in New Mexico. He was part of the pursuit and capture of Chief Joseph and Sitting Bull.

The collection also contains newspaper clippings and copies of newspapers.

There are also handwritten papers, with many written by William Brotherton. These consist of papers related to a committee that William participated in, some financial documents, flyers, fragments, and other writings. The writings contain poems, songs, and essays.

Series I: Correspondences contains letters written to Sadie and William Brotherton, along with a few letters written to others. Some of these letters do not specify who it written to or from. These additional letters are sorted together in chronological order. All other letters are organized by the receipient, Sadie Brotherton or William H. Brotherton. Sadie's letters primarily consist of letters from William, her immediate family, including one of her sisters and two of her brothers, her extended family members, and her friends. William H. Brotherton's letters were primarily written by his siblings, especially his brother James. He also received letters from extended family members, friends, and Sadie.

Series II: Newspapers primarily contains newspaper clippings of poems. There is also a copy of the New York Tribute from 1887. Another folder contains a newspaper clipping that held a lock of hair inside of it, and the hair is included in the folder.

Series III: Papers consists of family paper documents. There are business cards for William H. Brotherton, committee papers, financial documents, printed flyers, written fragments, a marriage announcement for William and Sadie's daughter Helen Brotherton, and writings. The writings consist of poems, songs, and essays. They are not attributed to a specific author and do not have dates. One poem example is a romantic poem, with one stanza, "I look around, and feel along / And then there falls a tear / For oh! Thou art not here my love / For oh! Thou art not here." One of the handwritten song lyrics papers includes a reference to the 'chorus.'

Keywords

Civil War

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

Correspondence

Poems

Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Brotherton Family Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series, Correspondences, Newspapers, and Papers. The Correspondences are organized by who received the letters, and most letters were sent to Sadie Brotherton and William H. Brotherton. Within that, the letters are organized by author and are in chronological order. Papers contains primarily handwritten documents, and these are organized by the type of document.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondences

Additional Letters

Multiple Authors

Unit Date 1855-1866

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

William H. Brotherton, Author

Unit Date 1855-1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Envelopes

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Sadie Brotherton

Anna Smith, Sister

Unit Date 1858; 1867; undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

D. S. Smith, Brother

Unit Date 1864; 1866; undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Henry Smith, Brother

Unit Date 1866-1867

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Multiple Authors

1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

1864

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

1866

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

1867

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Susana Smith, Mother

Unit Date 1867

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

William H. Brotherton, Husband

1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

1864

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

1866

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

1867

1867

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

William H. Brotherton

Amanda, Cousin

Unit Date 1855-1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Barbara Brotherton, Sister

Unit Date 1855-1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Bill Chambers

Unit Date 1856-1857

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Catherine 'Kate' Brotherton, Sister

Unit Date 1856; 1867

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

David H. Brotherton, Brother

Unit Date 1855-1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Elizabeth Brotherton Hoover, Sister

Unit Date Undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

James Brotherton, Brother

1855

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

1857-1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

1861; 1864; 1867; Undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

John Brotherton, Brother

Unit Date 1855-1864

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Margaret 'Mag' Brotherton, Sister

Unit Date 1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Multiple Authors**1854**

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

1855

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

1857

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

1860

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

1864**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 45 (folder)**1865****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 46 (folder)**1866****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 47 (folder)**1867****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 48 (folder)**Undated****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 49 (folder)**Sadie Brotherton, Wife****Unit Date** Undated**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 50 (folder)**Series II: Newspapers****Clippings****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 51 (folder)**Hair and Newspaper Clipping****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 52 (folder)**the New York Tribune****Unit Date** November 16, 1887**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 53 (folder)**Series III: Papers****Cards****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 54 (folder)**Committee Papers****Unit Date** 1859**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 55 (folder)

Financial Documents

Unit Date 1861-1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 56 (folder)

Flyers

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 57 (folder)

Fragments

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 58 (folder)

Marriage Announcements

Unit Date 1887

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 59 (folder)

Writings

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 60 (folder)